

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 and 31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claim 28 are amended and claim 30 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter disclosed therein. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully appreciate the indication that claims 1-29 and 31 are allowed.

The Office Action objects to the drawings because the intermediate transfer member recited in claim 28 is not shown in the drawings. Claim 28 is amended to remove the recitation of the intermediate transfer member. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the title. The title is amended to overcome the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the title is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the specification because it refers to an intermediate transfer member that is the same as the image carrying body. The specification is amended to overcome the objection by removing the recitation of an intermediate transfer member. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Matsuura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,126,799). The cancellation of claim 30 renders the rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-29 and 31 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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